

Water samples taken

Experts checking wells near NAS

By Amanda Thompson
Staff Writer

HORSHAM — Researchers recently tested water from homes and businesses along Horsham Road in an attempt to determine whether contamination from the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base has spread to nearby neighborhoods.

Jack Dunleavy, an environmental engineer with Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said water samples were taken from five private wells along Horsham Road on Nov. 22 and will be tested by an independent lab.

Technicians are looking for the presence of volatile organic compounds, such as solvents or degreasers, that had leaked into the soil at the 50-year-old military facility.

Moderately contaminated water found near one base site along Horsham Road has fueled speculation.

The southwest edge of the military base runs along Horsham Road from Maple Avenue to Privet Road.

"Because the question was asked," Dunleavy said, "they decided to use this analysis."

Test results should be completed by mid-January, he said.

So far officials have said there is no data linking base contamination to nearby neighborhoods and no one at the base has become ill because of contamination at any of the sites.

Contaminated water contained only low levels of hazardous substances and was considered safe to drink, according to base officials.

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A day for renewing focus



Members of the Upper Moreland band huddle together in the cold as they watch the Hatboro-Horsham football game during the Thanksgiving Day halftime. Hatboro-Horsham won, 56-6. Story on Page B1.

Higher fees proposed

Board wants to increase fees for services

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Flourtown

Lunch with Santa

Dublin Players will present the musical "S'Are Ringing," on Dec. 6 and 7, 7:30 p.m. at Middle School, 520 Twining Road, Dublin. For information, call 643-1600, ext. 56. For information, call 233-3177.

Glenside

Beef 'n' Beer planned

The Ladies Auxiliary of Edge Hill Fire Co. will hold a Beef 'n' Beer on Dec. 7 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the North Penn VFW, 2519 Jenkintown Road. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. For information, call 576-0990, 887-5007 or 881-2261.

Horsham

Baby-sitting workshop

Horsham Township Parks and Recreation will offer a Baby-sitting Workshop for children ages 9 to 14 on Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuition costs \$20 per person. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. For information, call 643-3131.

Cheltenham

Harmonica workshop

The East Cheltenham Free Library on Myrtle Avenue is sponsoring a free hands-on workshop titled "The Magic of the Harmonica" on Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. Jim Prushankin, The Harmonica Man, will present the course, which is taught for all ages. For information, call 379-2077.

Glenside

Blackthorn show

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sean MacBride Division, has tickets available to the Blackthorn Show on Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Keswick Theatre. The group will host a turkey dinner after the show at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 235 Limekiln Pike. Crossroads will provide the music. For information, call 654-8996 or 674-8406.

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Labs testing well water

Continued from Page A1

The contaminated base sites include landfills dating back to the 1940s and fuel spills.

Near the base, some of the homes have wells as shallow as 25 or 30 feet. Although some residents with wells now use municipal water, they continue to use well water for pools or gardens.

Dunleavy would not release the names or addresses of the homeowners whose wells were tested but said they were "spread out along the whole length of Horsham Road" and beyond.

The tests will cost approximately \$2,000, Dunleavy said.

Meeting slated on dev.

MONTGOMERY TWP. — Township supervisors, county planners and township residents have scheduled a meeting to discuss development planned for the Witchwood and Heckler farms.

The meeting will be held Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the township building.

The workshop came at the request of resident Debbie Schryer, one of six residents who have sued the board of supervisors and chairman Richard Roller over a controversial township ordinance that allows commercial and retail development on the property.

"We have details," Schryer said. "At the September 13 meeting, we will discuss the Blue Line project, which will develop 445,000 square feet of retail space and 42 houses."

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